



Security Council

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Letter dated 4 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda on efforts to resolve the current crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I am requesting that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph Nsengimana
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 4 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement on efforts to resolve the current crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda wishes to clarify key facts relating to efforts under way to resolve the current crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

First and foremost, it should be understood that the current crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is a complex situation that requires an appreciation of the root causes. All Parties involved should endeavour to avoid confusion both in the analysis and approach towards a solution.

The problems in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo are essentially Congolese and as such should be dealt with by the leadership in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. External interventions from the region and international community can only augment these domestic efforts. It is critical that emphasis be placed on the implementation of existing agreements and Security Council and African Union resolutions on the matter.

The key element in these agreements and resolutions is the continued presence of ex-FAR/Interahamwe/forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) on Congolese soil, an issue that needs to be dealt with urgently by the international community and that cannot be handled by Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone. If this threat of ex-FAR/Interahamwe/FDLR present in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is not resolved, it will remain a persistent source of conflict in the region.

Contrary to what some in the international community continue to say, the prevailing assumption that the crisis is a matter between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is wrong. This misconception leads some parties seeking to intervene to demand a meeting between the Heads of State of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a solution to the internal crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to be in regular communication, including through exchange of visits by special envoys. The contacts will lead to a clear understanding of what role the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo expects from Rwanda in resolving the crisis within the context of existing agreements.

The two Governments have agreed to participate in a regional meeting bringing together all stakeholders to review solutions to the root causes of the crisis. Within this regional framework, Rwanda remains committed to contributing to a lasting solution to the current situation in order to achieve a peaceful and stable region.

Done at Kigali on 4 November 2008